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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/330,629 06/11/99 STEWART

C JG-RP-4796

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HM12/0313

EXAMINER

HUI, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 03/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/330,629

Applicant(s)

STEWART, CLAUDIA CHERNEY

Examiner

San-ming Hui

Art Unit

1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 22, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of the invention of Group I, claims 1-14, in Paper No. 7, received December 22, 2000, is acknowledged.

Claims 15-40 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The expression, "a method of preventing Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection" in claim 1, line 1-2, renders the claims indefinite as failing to clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. Examples of how and when to prevent HIV infection are not set forth in the specification. Absent such exemplification, the skilled artisan could not establish the identity of those situations wherein prevention of HIV infection would be effected. Furthermore, it is unclear as to the degree of prevention (e.g., total prevention, some prevention, probable prevention, total prevention in most cases...etc.) herein because the specification does not disclose the extent of prevention achieved. Examiner would favorably consider the term "prophylaxis" over "prevention".

Regarding claim 6, the phrase "or the like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: a chemical structure, chemical formula or chemical name for the compound designated "compound 96" in the claim. The claim is indefinite as to the structure of the compound encompassed thereby.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dori (WO93/11140) in view of Cooper et al. (US Patent 4,242,359).

Dori teaches the method of treating viral infection broadly by topically administering the metallo-organic cobalt compounds, including compound No. 96 in the instant specification, with a concentration of 0.5 to 10mg/ml (0.05 to 1% by wt) (See page 13, line 16-19; page 19-27, experiment 1-7; claims 1 and 11). Dori also teaches

the dosage form of the metallo-organic cobalt compounds may be ointments, salves, and creams (See page 12, lines 16-17).

Dori does not expressly teach the method of prevention (or prophylaxis) for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection by intravaginally administering the metallo-organic cobalt compound No. 96 in the instant specification to the site on the subject which is exposed to the HIV. Dori also does not expressly teach the method of using a condom as an applicator to topically apply the compound No.96.

However, Dori teaches the method of treating any viral infections, including HIV infection, by topically administering the metallo-organic cobalt compounds, including the instant compound. Furthermore, the method of topical and intravaginal administration of a medical agent by applicators including a condom is known in the art (See Cooper et al., abstract and col. 8, line 40-44).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to topically administer the instant compounds to the site on the subject by using a condom as an applicator for the prevention or prophylaxis of HIV infection.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to utilize the instant compounds for the prevention or prophylaxis of HIV infection because the compounds of Dori are known to be effective in treating viral infections, broadly. It is therefore reasonable to expect the very same compounds to be useful in preventing any viral infections including those caused by HIV strains.

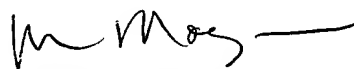
Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to the topically administer the instant compound by using a condom as an applicator because the method of topical administration of pharmaceutical actives by applicators including a condom is known in the art.

Optimization of result effective parameters such as a dosage or concentration range and dosage regimen for active agents is considered within the skill of the artisan.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to San-ming Hui whose telephone number is (703) 305-1002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minna Moezie, J.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4612. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4556 for regular communications and (703) 308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.


MINNA MOEZIE, J.D.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

San-ming Hui
March 12, 2001